

- Claims 1-14 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Kinoshita in view of Tanaka et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,598,478, hereinafter "Tanaka").

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102 and 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 15-27 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Kinoshita. Applicants point out that Kinoshita is not prior art under any section of 35 U.S.C. § 102. The present application was filed on February 8, 1996, prior to the February 28, 1996 filing date of the Kinoshita patent. The date of the Kinoshita patent is not more than one year prior to applicants filing date required by Section 102(b). The Kinoshita patent does not meet the requirements of a reference under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) or any other sub-section of 35 U.S.C. § 102. Therefore, the Kinoshita patent does not constitute prior art to the present application.

Claims 1-14 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Kinoshita in view of Tanaka. As stated above, Kinoshita is not prior art to the application and therefore the rejection necessarily fails.


CONCLUSION

This application is in condition for allowance, and early notice of same is earnestly solicited. Should the examiner have any questions, comments or suggestions in furtherance

of the prosecution of this application, he is invited to contact applicants' representative by telephone at the number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 23 Sept 98

  
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